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REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-12, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective independent claim from which they depend.

Claims 1-6 and 10-12 have been amended for clarity.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite all of the limitations of claim 9 and part of the limitations recited in allowable claim 10, i.e., "the second holding member has a cut-planned line." Claim 10 further recites "a cut-planned line at substantially the center portion thereof." Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yamaguchi JP 07-061081. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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The presently claimed holding mechanism has a first holding member and a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering the opening of the first holding member. The first holding member is made of synthetic resin, the second holding member is made of paper, and the second holding member has a cut-planned line. This claimed arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

Yamaguchi JP '081 is said to disclose a first holding member having bobbin receiving portions and a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering an opening of the first holding member. However, Yamaguchi JP '081 does not disclose or suggest that the first holding member is made of synthetic resin and the second holding member is made of paper and has a cut-planned line. Neither the English translation of the Japanese Abstract, nor Yamaguchi JP '081, Figs. 1-6, disclose a second holding member having a cut-planned line.

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For the foregoing reasons, Yamaguchi JP '081 fails to disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. And, there is no disclosure or teaching in Yamaguchi JP '081 that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 2-8, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons as is claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Wouters et al. U.S. Patent 5,415,486. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Wouters '486 is said to disclose a first holding member having bobbin receiving portions and a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering an opening of the first holding member. However, Wouters '486 does not disclose or suggest that the first holding member is made of synthetic

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resin, and the second holding member is made of paper and has a cut-planned line.

For the foregoing reasons, Wouters '486 fails to disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. And, there is no disclosure or teaching in Wouters '486 that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 6-8, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wouters '486 in view of Nakae U.S. Patent 5,399,035. The rejection is also respectfully traversed.

The Examiner admits that Wouters '486 does not disclose a first holding member formed of synthetic resin and cites Nakae '035 which is said to disclose same. However Nakae '035 does not overcome the deficiencies of Wouters '486 discussed above.

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For the foregoing reasons, neither Wouters '486 nor Nakae '035 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in either of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

All claims 1-8 and 10-12 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-8 and 10-12 is respectfully requested.

Applicants request clarification regarding the drawings filed with the application. The Office Action Summary contains no indication that the drawings were accepted or objected to by the Examiner.

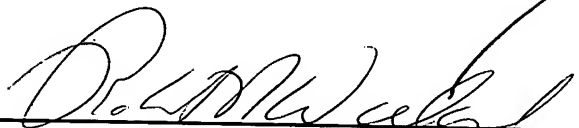
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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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